



M.O.E. Policy Manual

MNF 142R

2. Application

This policy applies to all marine construction projects in Ontario:

1. that are subject to the Environmental Assessment Act.
2. that are in the private sector or not otherwise subject to the Environmental Assessment Act. In these cases the Ministry will recommend to the reviewing agency that the requirements of this policy be applied.

Under the Environmental Assessment Act, proponents are required to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) for review by concerned agencies prior to a decision by the Minister of the Environment regarding approval. These Guidelines shall be used by MOE staff in their review of EAs submitted as part of the EA procedure, and by proponents in the evaluation of water resources impacts and in the planning of mitigative measures.

3. Effects of Marine Construction

Short- and long-term effects of marine construction on the aquatic environment may involve erosion and sedimentation, degradation of ground and surface water quality, disruption of ground and surface water quantity, damage to watercourse bed and banks, channel modification, and increase in surface runoff.

These effects may have negative impacts on the water course ecosystem and on other beneficial uses.

4. Mitigation of Construction-Related Impacts

Recommendations to mitigate and minimize potential short- and long-term impacts are outlined in the Guidelines. Short-term, construction-related impacts can generally be minimized through sound construction practices and various site specific control methods. Long-term impacts can be minimized through a combination of careful project design and site restoration measures.

5. Water Resource Requirements in Environmental Assessment Reports

The following water resource requirements shall be considered by proponents and reviewers during the preparation and review of EA reports:

- (a) baseline data on the pre-construction conditions as they pertain to the quality and quantity of surface and ground water;
- (b) description of the proposed undertaking and identification of potential impacts;
- (c) estimation of impact magnitude;
- (d) strategy for the implementation of mitigative measures;
- (e) a rehabilitation plan for the site and/or route;
- (f) monitoring program for evaluating the effectiveness of construction-related mitigative measures and the rehabilitation plan; and
- (g) summary statements on the above-mentioned water resources information shall be substantiated by valid references and/or data, and results of all analyses shall be verifiable.

6. Policy Implementation

This policy will be implemented by:

- (a) the Environmental Assessment Branch and the Approvals Branch of MOE during the review and preparation of EAs;
- (b) the regional offices of MOE during field inspection and EA review.